

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00837 01 OF 02 232232Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
/071 W

-----232335 018138 /70

P 232222Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2543
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 00837

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU VISIT AND SPEECH TO CONGRESS PRESS ROUNDUP

REF: OTTAWA 742

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FEBRUARY 23 PRESS GIVES VERY WIDE
COVERAGE TO TRUDEAU'S SPEECH AND PROVIDES EXTENSIVE
REPORTING ON REACTIONS TO IT. EDITORIAL COMMENTS
UNIVERSALLY PRAISED SPEECH BUT ALSO POINT OUT THAT PRO-
MISES HAVE BEEN MADE WHICH WILL NOW HAVE TO BE KEPT. END
SUMMARY.

2. NEWS REPORTS:

TODAY'S PRESS, NOT SURPRISINGLY, HAS DEVOTED AN ENORMOUS
AMOUNT OF SPACE TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS
AND TO REACTIONS IN U.S. AND CANADA. TORONTO GLOBE AND
MAIL BANNER-HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE: "CANADA WILL
REMAIN UNITED, PM TELLS CONGRESS". OTTAWA CITIZEN FOCUSED
ATTENTION ON REACTIONS WHEN IT HEADLINED: "SENATORS
MOVED -- RAVE NOTICES GREET PM'S US SPEECH". MONTREAL
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00837 01 OF 02 232232Z

GAZETTE SIMILARLY REPORTED "TRUDEAU'S SPEECH WINS HIGH
PRAISE IN US CONGRESS". MOST OF THESE WERE STRAIGHT
NEWS REPORTS ON HIS SPEECH AND ON US REACTIONS. GAZETTE
QUOTED SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL --WHICH IT CLAIMED TO BE
BRZEZINSKI -- AS SAYING, PRESIDENT CARTER "COMPLIMENTED
MR. TRUDEAU VERY HIGHLY" ON THE SPEECH. OTHERS QUOTED
AS EXPRESSING POSITIVE REACTIONS WERE SENATORS MUSKIE,

MCGOVERNN JACKSON AND SPARKMAN. OTTAWA'S FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER LE DROIT HEADLINED THAT A NEW CLIMATE EXISTED IN US-CANADIAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO LE DROIT, "EVERYTHING UNDERLINES THE FACT THAT THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO MR. TRUDEAU . . . WENT WELL BEYOND THAT OF SIMPLE POLITENESS DUE TO A FOREIGN STRANGER."
REPORTS ON REACTIONS:

3. OTHER NEWS ITEMS HAVE FOCUSED ON REACTIONS TO SPEECH. GLOBE AND MAIL HAD SECOND PIECE ON FRONT PAGE ENTITLED, "REACTION: THOSE BOTHERING TO LISTEN IN TORONTO LIKED SPEECH". GIST OF ARTICLE WAS THAT NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE WATCHED THE SPEECH LIVE, BUT THAT THOSE WHO DID GENERALLY REACTED VERY FAVORABLY. CONSERVATIVE ONTARIO PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU SPOKE FOR THE MAJORITY OF CANADIANS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND IN AN UPLIFTING MANNER. . . HE HAS PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD THE CANADIAN VIEW OF OUR INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN A FASHION THAT SPEAKS FOR ARTICULATE AND COMMITTED FEDERALISM. A THIRD GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE ALSO ON THE FRONT PAGE REPORTED THAT "PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LEADER JOE CLARK AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER EDWARD BROADBENT PRAISED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU. . . FOR HIS SPEECH TO THE US CONGRESS...

HE (CLARK) DESCRIBED THE SPEECH AS ONE THAT REFLECTED WHAT MOST CANADIANS WOULD HAVE WANTED THEIR NATIONAL LEADER TO TELL THE US CONGRESS". HOWEVER, CLARK ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00837 01 OF 02 232232Z

SAID THAT "HE WOULD HAVE ADDED DETAILS SHOWING THAT CANADIANS' CURRENT DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT LIMITED TO QUEBEC AND NOT LIMITED TO CULTURE". MR. BROADBENT IS QUOTED AS DESCRIBING SPEECH AS "AN ELEGANT AND SENSITIVE DESCRIPTION OF CANADA'S PROBLEMS", ALTHOUGH HE ALSO POINTED OUT IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS.

4. OTTAWA CITIZEN HAD SOMEWHAT SIMILAR REPORT BUT FOCUSED ON QUEBEC PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE IN FRONT-PAGE STORY: "TORIES, NDP WARM IN PRAISE -- LEVESQUE DISPLAYS BOREDOM". ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, QUEBEC PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE AND SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS "ALL SAID THEY WERE TOO BUSY TO EVEN WATCH THE ADDRESS. . . IT SEEMS TO ME HE HAD TROUBLE READING HIS SCRIPT" MR. LEVESQUE QUIPPED. . . 'I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO STUDY IT (THE SPEECH) MORE CLOSELY BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMENTS'".

EDITORIALS:

5. EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY LAUDATORY. MONTREAL GAZETTE HAD LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "TRUDEAU WINS WASHINGTON" AND DESCRIBES SPEECH AS UNUSUAL AND EFFECTIVE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "AMERICAN PEOPLE. . . ARE NOT KEEN ON TRADING (CURRENT RELATIONS) IN FOR A NEW TRILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE US, CANADA AND QUEBEC. NEITHER ARE MOST CANADIANS". LE DROIT EDITORIAL ALSO PRAISED SPEECH BUT CONCLUDES THAT "MR. TRUDEAU HAS PROMISED A LOT. HE WILL HAVE TO DELIVER. IT IS ON THIS

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00837 02 OF 02 232307Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 00837

THAT AMERICANS AND CANADIANS WILL JUDGE HIS ACTS".

6. GLOBE AND MAIL ALSO EDITORIALIZED ON SPEECH AND CON-
CLUDED, " MR. TRUDEAU CAN, WHEN HE WISHES, STRIKE A
NOBLE NOTE. HE DID YESTERDAY. YOU DON'T THROW AWAY THE
GOOD. YOU WORK TO MAKE IT BETTER". OTTAWA CITIZEN
EDITORIALIZED THAT, "TRUDEAU STRIKES A CHORD. . .IT WAS
AN EXCELLENT SPEECH THAT DESERVED TO BE APPLAUDED ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE BORDER".

COLUMNISTS:

7. FINALLY, SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ALSO FOCUSED ON SPEECH.
SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICE'S CHARLES LYNCH SPECULATED ". . .
THAT WE MAY BE SEEING THE KICK-OFF FOR 1977 ELECTION CAM-
PAIGN". LYNCH REPORTED THAT TRUDEAU DEVELOPED TWO
LINES IN HIS SPEECH, BOTH OF WHICH WERE WELL RECEIVED.

ONE WAS HIS EMPHASIS ON FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US AND CANADA
AND THE OTHER WAS QUEBEC. GLOBE AND MAIL GEOFFREY STEVENS
ENTITLED HIS COLUMN, "SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT". ACCORD-
ING TO STEVENS, TRUDEAU ". . .MADE POINTS THAT NEEDED TO
BE MADE. . .HIS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS. . .GAVE AMERICANS -
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00837 02 OF 02 232307Z

AND CANADIANS - SOMETHING WORTH THINKING ABOUT".

8. IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VEIN, CITIZEN EDITORIAL
COLUMNIST AZAHAR ALI KHAN THOUGHT, "CARTER WANTS TO BE
FRIENDS WITH EVERYBODY." REFERRING TO FOREIGN POLICY,
KHAN CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S WAY OF HANDLING THIS
FIELD, AND THE "WARM, INDEED EXTREMELY KIND, WELCOME HE
EXTENDED (TO TRUDEAU). . .INDICATES THAT CARTER WANTS TO
KEEP IN THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE TOUCH WITH AMERICA'S
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND ALLIES." DUEMLING

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